

THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1984

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DENNIS JURRIES
DICK WAGNER

*** HAPPY NEW YEAR ***

WELL---Another year is gone and we hope that all of you have had a good one in all respects, especially in regards to computing.

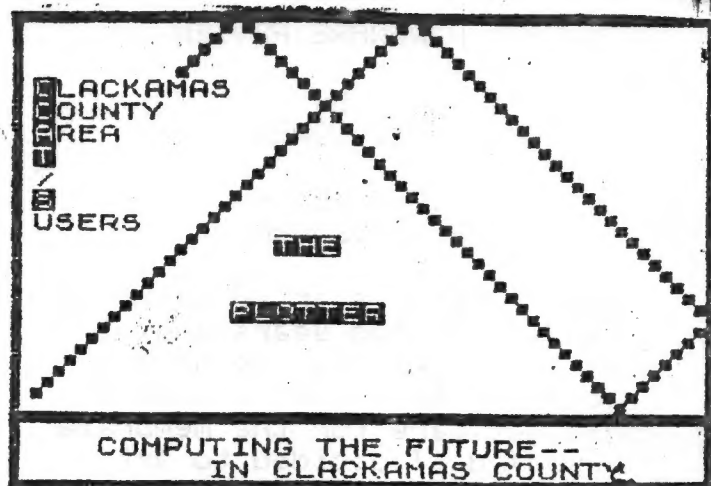
We hope that your relationship with your T/S equipment and with CCAT/S has been a rewarding one. We hope that during 1984 we will all get to know each other and our computers a lot better. After all, that IS the reason for our being a user group, isn't it?
HERE/S TO A GREAT 1984****>>>

MEETINGS

At our DECEMBER meeting we had our annual elections of new officers. Your new group officers are as follows:

CHAIRMAN: RICK READ
SECRETARY-
TREASURER: ROD GOWEN
LIBRARIAN: LAURA GOWEN
PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS

We had a super turnout at the last meeting held on DEC. 9, at 7:00 P.M. in RM 142, CLAIRMONT HALL, CCC.



We were called to order at 7:30 and proceeded to start with new business, including elections. Other topics of discussion ranged from what each of the new officers would be responsible for to comments regarding our newsletter.

After the business was taken care of, we had a short period of discussion on the topic of TAPE RECORDERS and the ability to SAVE and LOAD programs onto tapes. The meeting was brought to a conclusion with a reminder to make sure that all members have their dues paid by JAN. 31, or there will be no PLOTTER in the mailbox in FEB. We sure do not wish to see our group reduce in size, as it is the purpose of our group to grow and help each other, RIGHT?

Our next meeting will be held:

at: 7:00 P.M.
on: FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
in: RM 142, CLAIRMONT HALL
CCC

PATS next meeting will be held:

at: 1:00 P.M.
on: SAT. JANUARY 14
in: RM B15 SCI and TECH
PCC SYLVANIA CAMPUS

Please attend and feel free to bring a friend. Preferably a new T/S OWNER.

SEE YOU THERE>=>=>=***

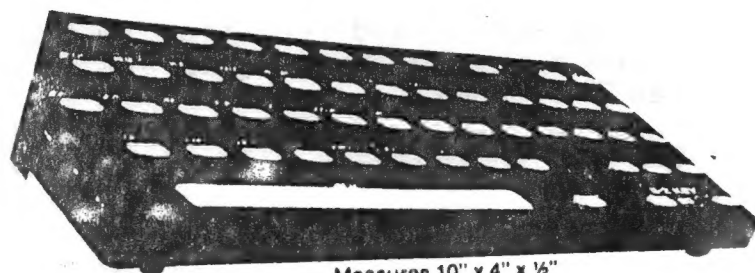
HARDWARE REVIEW

by
ROD GOWEN

E-Z KEY 60 KEYBOARD

When I first started using my ZX81, over two years ago, I was so happy just to have a computer that even though I did not care for the membrane keyboard, I decided to get along with it. Well, I did get along with it for over a year, and, like others, almost wore it out. Then I started looking seriously at add-on keyboard. After much reading and research into the subject, I decided to order an E-Z KEY 60. I am not lazy, but I will say that the fact that I did not have to rewire anything did play an important role in my decision. When the keyboard arrived, barely three weeks after sending in my order, I eagerly set to work to install it. The whole job of removing the bottom of the case and the PCB from the upper case, unplugging the membrane cable and plugging in the new E-Z KEY, including putting the case back together again, took me only about 20 minutes. As soon as I was finished with that, I went to work testing it out. WHAT A DIFFERENCE***

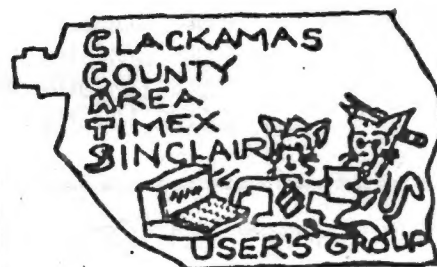
I can now tell when a key is pressed by the "CLICK" that it makes. I also enjoy not having to SHIFT to get STOP, DELETE, QUOTE, DOUBLE QUOTE, COLON, SEMI-COLON, and EDIT, all of which have their own key. It also has a full space bar and two shift keys. Add to that the data pad on the right and you get just about all you could ask for in a keyboard. As you can tell, I cannot give it too much praise.



Measures 10" x 4" x 1/2"

After almost 8 months in use, I can tell you that I have not had any problems with my E-Z KEY keyboard. The E-Z KEY 60 sells for \$84.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and is available from:

E-Z KEY
SUITE 75, DEPT. CE
QUINCY, MA 02169
(617) 773-1187



BITS and BYTES

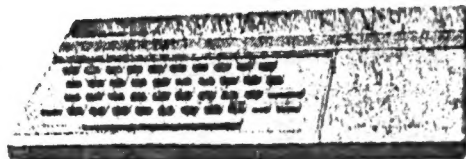
Now that the LONG-AWAITED and much reviewed T/S 2068 is out and about, the next item to be considered is how to use them to maximise the tremendous potential they represent. That is where CCAT/S comes into the picture. We can, as a group accomplish a lot more than if we were to try to do this on our own. Let us all stick together and make the most of what we have at our fingertips.

The next major item to be released by TIMEX is the MODEM. According to JOHN KRACKENBERG, TIMEX AREA REP in SEATTLE, it is slated for shipment to the distributors. We can only hope. Do not hold your breath.

Along with the 2068, there is new software from TIMEX as well as from a score of third party suppliers. We can only hope that all that is to be available will be of use to us, the USERS.

TIMEX has stated and PROMISED to be an OPEN company. That means that they will give all possible technical data to any third party software and/or hardware developers. This is certainly a radical turnabout which, if true, can only mean many new and useful products.

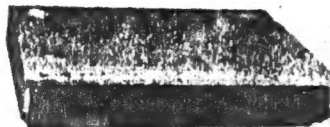
BOY, DO WE NEED YOUR HELP>>*>
As we have stated before, we need contributors. We need BOOK REVIEWS, HARDWARE REVIEWS, SOFTWARE REVIEWS and any bits of news that may be of general interest to our readers. Do not be afraid, no one is going to give you a bad grade. After all, just put yourself in our position and think about how difficult it is to not only put this newsletter together, but also to have to write most of it. It takes a lot of time.



2068

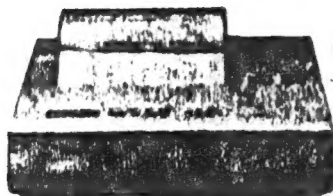
Color Computer 72K

AVAILABLE 1/84?



2050

Modem



2040

Printer

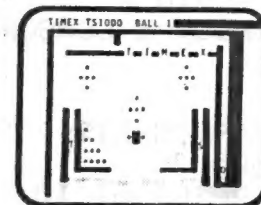
SOFTWARE REVIEW

PINBALL from TIMEX

AS PROMISED, here is my review of the TIMEX PINBALL game tape. This is a very good game for the T/S 1000, in that it lends itself very well to a black and white display. (Not that it could not be improved by the addition of color, therefore this game is available for the T/S 2068 on both COMMAND CART and on CASSETTE. The action is fast or slow as chosen by the Player by his choice of ball speed when shooting. After shooting the ball you have to use the flippers as on any PINBALL machine, to keep the ball alive. Even in that they give you a choice of speed by the row of keys that you chose to use for the flippers. Then the object is to hit all the lights, and to light all of the letters at the top of the screen.

In all, I think that this is one of the best games that TIMEX has to offer. I give this one a *** (three star) rating. GIVE IT A TRY>>>*** At only \$12.95 for the B+W version, it is a bargain...

USER
REVIEW



PINBALL 16K

Plays like a real pinball game complete with flippers, bumpers, "nudge", bonus points and more. Uses fast, efficient machine code to choose its moves. © A.H. Laity 1982 Softsync, Inc.

03-4010

This month we have not one, but two, short routines for your use in Programming. The first will show how to use the `INKEY$` function to accomplish a task on screen without having a visible cursor as you have when using the `INPUT` command. The second routine is to be the first in a series of routines on JUSTIFICATION of various types and will be followed by a Program on cam design that makes use of the routines. Our Program this month is one that appeared in SINCLAIR USER the ENGLISH version of our own TIMEX SINCLAIR USER. It is a rather simple but fun little adventure game. We hope that you will type it in and try it. Not only will you learn a little about Programming, but it might even be fun.

Here is the first of our series on JUSTIFICATION. It was submitted by DENNIS JURRIES who says that he would like to have a short session at the next meeting for those who are interested, to go into further explanation on this subject. Be sure to attend.

RIGHT JUSTIFICATION

```
10 LET A$="YOUR NUMBER"
20 PRINT AT X,Y-LEN A$,A$
```

Have you ever wanted to put together a routine in which the computer would wait for an input WITHOUT a CURSOR? If so, try this:

```
1000 IF INKEY$<>"5" THEN
GOTO 1000
1010 PRINT AT 10, 10;"5"
```

The `INKEY$` function does not actually wait for a key to be pressed, rather it scans the keyboard for a certain key being pressed, then takes appropriate action. More on this can be found in the manual under TIME and MOTION.

1K ADVENTURE

by
DAVID CLARK

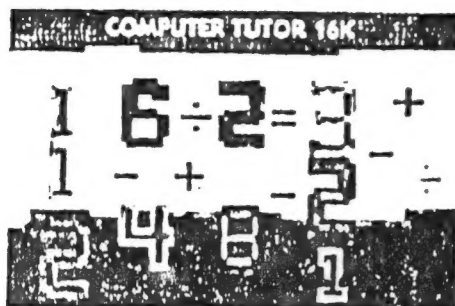
```
5 REM "1K ADVENTURE"
10 LET S=VAL "500"
20 LET T=PI-PI
30 LET TU=PI/PI
40 PRINT "TURN ";TU;" TREASURE";T;" STRENGTH ";S
43 IF S<=0 THEN GOTO 5000
45 PRINT "YOU HAVE FOUND-"
50 LET X=INT +RND*VAL "75"
60 LET H=INT (RND*INT PI)+PI/PI
65 GOSUB H*100
70 LET S=S+10
80 CLS
90 LET TU=TU+1
95 GOTO VAL "40"
100 PRINT "A MONSTER.F/B?"
110 INPUT I$
120 IF I$<>"F" AND I$<>"B"
OR I$="B" AND T<X THEN GOTO
110
130 IF I$="F" THEN LET S=S-X
140 IF I$="B" THEN LET T=T-X
150 GOSUB 2000
190 RETURN
200 PRINT "A POTION"
210 LET S=S+X
220 GOSUB VAL "2000"
230 RETURN
300 PRINT "TREASURE.IT IS
WORTH";X
310 LET T=T+X
350 GOSUB VAL "2000"
400 RETURN
2000 IF INKEY$="" THEN GOTO
2000
2010 RETURN
5000 CLS
5010 PRINT "YOU HAVE DIED.YOU
SURVIVED ";TU;" TURNS
```

NOTE: As you can see, this Program makes good use of the `INKEY$` function. That is the reason I decided to run it at this time. In future issues there will be other Programs reprinted from magazines that are not in the club library.

WATCH FOR THESE AND OTHER SOFTWARE ITEMS TO BE REVIEWED IN FUTURE ISSUES.

REMEMBER---If you have a favorite Program or item of hardware PLEASE let our readers know about it by sending us a short review in which you rate it on a scale of 1 to 4 STARS.

MATH RAIDERS 1000 COMPUTER TUTOR



MOTHERSHIP



NIGHTGUNNER



Use the POWER
within your reach!

-THE POWER-

WHAT IS IT?-----I guess it can mean many different things to many different people but in our situation it means the POWER of COMPUTING. That Power in relation to the size and cost of T/S COMPUTERS, has been considerable and now, with the addition of the new T/S 2068 and the soon to come T/S 2050 MODEM, the POWER is STUPENDOUS. With this equipment and very little programming knowledge, you can now tap into resources and data bases that were unheard of only a few short years ago. All of this is available at a cost that will not strain the budget of most families. And getting the most POWER for your investment? That is where we come in. We, at CCAT/S, are here and will continue, to be here for any of you who need a little assistance to get the most POWER possible for the lowest possible COST. Just call us, or better yet, come to a meeting and let us show you what is possible.

FOR NOW, AGAIN, LETS ALL HAVE
A SUPER 1984*****

UNTIL NEXT MONTH-
KEEP ON-
POKEing and PEEKing>>*

COBT/S

1419 1/2 7th STREET

OREGON CITY, OR 97045